A New Isodontia from Cuba (Hymenoptera: Sphecidae: Chlorionini)

By V. S. L. Pate, Ithaca, N. Y.

In material sent me by Dr. S. C. Bruner of the Estacion Experimental Agronomica at Santiago de las Vegas, Cuba, are specimens of an exquisite metallic blue *Isodontia* which superficially resembles our common blue mud-dauber, *Chalybion californicum*. Metallic blue *Isodontiae* are rather unusual: only one other such form is known in the New World—the northern South American *Isodontia nigrocoerulea* (Taschenberg) [1] which is undoubtedly closely related to the present interesting Cuban species.

To Dr. Bruner I wish to extend my sincere thanks for the opportunity of studying this unusual material.

Isodontia poeyi [2] new species

The bright cyaneous coloration of *poeyi* immediately distinguishes it from all other Antillean species of Chlorionines.

The general habitus and the finely papillate flagellar articles indicate that *poeyi* is closely allied to Taschenberg's South American form *nigrocoerulea*. But unlike that species, *poeyi* is uniformly bright cyaneous in color, without trace of red or brown anywhere on the head, thorax, abdomen, or legs; the wings are clear to very lightly tinged with fuscous basally and discally to infumated apically, whereas those of *nigrocoerulea* are uniformly dark fusco-violaceous throughout. Furthermore, the head and thorax of *poeyi* lack the stiff, black, seta-like hairs so characteristic of *nigrocoerulea;* and the hair fringes on the abdominal sternites of the present species are black and much denser and shorter than the corresponding light and sparse

[1] The Panamanian *Isodontia bipunctata* Rohwer, 1913, is very probably a synonym of *I. nigrocoerulea* (Taschenberg, 1869).

[2] It is very fitting that this elegant and distinctive species be dedicated to one of Cuba's most celebrated and distinguished naturalists, Professor Felipe Poey.

structures found in *nigrocoerulea*. Finally, *poeyi* is a slim and delicate form, with the abdominal petiole very slender and fully as long as the hind metatarsi, in sharp contrast to the larger and stockier *nigrocoerulea,* the petiole of which is comparatively stout and less than three-fourths the length of the hind metatarsi.

Type.—♂; Sierra Cristal, Oriente Province, CUBA. February 16–20, 1948. (F. de Zayas and J. Ferrás.)

Male. Length 18 mm. Head and thorax uniform bright cyaneous; abdomen darker cyaneous, tinged with green. Legs dark cyaneous to knees; the tibiae, tarsi, calcaria, spines, claws, and pulvilli black. Antennae, tegulae, axillary sclerites, and abdominal petiole, black. Wings hyaline, the base and disc faintly tinged with fuscous, the apices, particularly beyond the cells, distinctly infumated; veins and stigma black.

Head with a moderately heavy vestiture of long, erect, silvery hair, thickest below antennae, and with a moderate, appressed, silvery sericeous pile on lower part of face and along inner and posterior orbits. Upper front and vertex with moderate, well separated punctures; a polite, impunctate area surrounding ocellar triangle, and also a similar broad band from posterior ocelli to upper inner orbits; postocellar line and ocellocular distance subequal. Antennae inserted above clypeus one-sixth the vertical eye length; scape strongly incrassate, one-third the vertical eye length; flagellar articles three to eight inclusive minutely papillate anteriorly and below; relative lengths: scape 15, pedicel 3, flagellar article one 11, two 10, three 12, four 20, five 20, six 20, seven 16, eight 14, nine 10, ten 8, eleven 8. Supraclypeal triangle impunctate, finely granulose. Clypeus strongly tumid, bisected by a weak keel; median length five-eighths the vertical eye length; apex truncate. Mandibles bidentate at apex.

Thorax and propodeum clothed with long, erect, silvery white hair. Mesonotum polite, with moderate, well separated punctures; notauli and parapsidal furrows faintly indicated. Scutellum and postscutellum more sparsely punctate than mesonotum. Mesopleura and metapleura more closely punctate than meso-

notum. Propodeum with punctures close, semiconfluent, becoming very finely striato-punctate; no trace of stigmatal grooves.

Legs with coxae, trochanters, and femora clothed with long, jubate, silvery white hair. Tibiae and tarsi moderately spinose.

Abdomen with petiole slender, equal in length to the hind metatarsi, and clothed with long, erect, silvery hair. Tergites almost impunctate, with a very thin, fine, puberulent, appressed silvery pubescence. Second sternite discally with a patch of pale jubate hair; third to seventh sternites with a transverse, preapical band of moderately long, erect, black, stiff hairs or setae; seventh and eighth sternites strongly hirsute throughout. Apical margin of fifth sternite broadly, shallowly emarginate; sixth and seventh progressively more deeply emarginate, the eighth distinctly so.

Female. Unknown.

Paratype.—♂; Siboney, Oriente Province, CUBA. July 29, 1947. (Pastor Alayo.) [Estacion Experimental Agronomica, Santiago de las Vegas, Cuba.]

Dr. Bruner informs me that in 1939 he saw another specimen of what is probably this species, taken by A. R. Otero at light on the Isle of Pines.

The Identity of the Male of Pseudomethoca simillima (Smith). (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae)

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During the past two years evidence has accumulated which proves beyond reasonable doubt that the male formerly considered to be the male of *Pseudomethoca simillima* (Smith) has been incorrectly associated with the female. The original association of the two sexes was made by Mickel (1924, Proc. U. S. Natl. Mus. 64, Art. 15: 33) on the basis of a pair reported